



The Canal Zone Philatelist



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Whole No. 188

Fort Grant Last Day Cover

by Gary B. Weiss and Rick Wolfe

First and last day covers for the various Canal Zone post offices are popular with collectors. Many modern examples are easy to obtain and easily recognized by cachets commemorating the event. John Smith has documented these covers and listed the known examples in *CZP* 24(1):7 (1988); updated 27(1):6 (1991). But openings and closings in early years are rare, with many unknown to collectors. For example, Frijoles was a post office from April 16, 1914 to September 30, 1914 but with only a few covers known, finding these specific dates seems unlikely.



Fig. 1 Fort Grant cover to USA with last day cancel

The dates of operation for each post office have been tabulated (See p. 181 of Entwistle's *The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone, 2nd Edition*), but earliest and latest usages are not (well) documented. Fort Grant was operational from July 1, 1916 to October 19, 1917. Entwistle noted that use of the Fort Grant cancel continued at least through January 1918 in spite of the name change to Fort Amador on October 20, 1917. A January 11, 1918 usage was reported in *CZP* 14(2):16 (1978).

The cover in Fig. 1 has a Fort Grant Hs-11 cancel dated October 19, 1917, the last day for this town. It recently sold on eBay. A last day cancel is much more satisfying than a latest known use. Similar opening and closing covers for other post offices may exist and should be reported to the Editor.

The WESTPEX 2014 Prospectus and Exhibit Entry Form are now up on their web site, www.westpex.org. Fifty frames are reserved for the CZSG until January 15, 2014. More frames may be available if members are among the first to get their entries in. WESTPEX asks CZSG members to submit them early.

President's Report

David Zemer

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A good part of my activity recently was dedicated to trying to track down a copy of one of the first auctions of Canal Zone material, the Thorne Sale, that took place in February 1907. This early sale established the provenance of at least one of our early gems as well as establishing a date of discovery. Perhaps with this information one of our members can search the early philatelic media and discover an even earlier owner of the Scott number 1 block shown in the article on page 33 of this issue.

Publications Volunteer Needed

After nearly 20 years in charge of selling copies of our publications, Richard Murphy has asked that another member take over. The work load is light but we do have a good number of handbooks and *Canal Zone Philatelists* that we would like to store and eventually sell to new members. Since we now have many years of *Philatelists* online for free and public reading, this has probably lessened the demand for the paper versions, but I know that when I first joined the Canal Zone Study Group I ordered all of the handbooks and *Philatelists* and enjoyed reading every page. We would like for future members to be able to do the same.

In this Issue:

Lead Article

Fort Grant Last Day Cover25

Articles and Discoveries

Discoveries Relating to Postal Cards27
Handling of WWII Army Official Business Mail 28-30
Thorne Estate Sale 190733
CZ First Series Covers..... 34-35
The 805th Engineer Battalion36

Study Group News

President's Report25
Secretary's Report 32
CZSG Meeting NAPEX 2013..... 32
CZSG Meeting StampShow 201332

Other

Corrections.....26
World's Largest Stamp Gallery Opens at NPM.....31
Auctions.....33

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Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Scans are preferred for figures of stamps or covers; however enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write or EMAIL the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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Canal Zone Study Group

Commonly used abbreviations

BEP = Bureau of Engraving & Printing

CZ Stamps = *Canal Zone Stamps*, by Gilbert N. Plass, Geoffrey Brewster, and Richard H. Salz, The Canal Zone Study Group, 1986

CZP = *The Canal Zone Philatelist*

Entwistle = *The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone, 2nd Edition*, by Lawson P. Entwistle, The Canal Zone Study Group, 1992

French = *Encyclopedia of Plate Varieties on US Bureau-Printed Postage Stamps*, by Loran C. French, Bureau Issues Association, 1979

Scott = *Scott's Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps*, current edition

Tatelman = *Canal Zone Postage Stamps*, by E.I.P. Tatelman, Canal Zone Postal Service, Mt. Hope, CZ, 1961

ABNCo = American Bank Note Company

NPM = National Postal Museum of the Smithsonian Institution

Journal citations are *Journal Name*, Volume No., Pages.

Anything without a byline is written by the Editor.



3a



3b

Figs. 3a and 3b Copies of Canal Zone Scott Nos. 93 (3a) and 79 (3b) that show the double transfer on the left side of the stamp in position LR79 of plate 14438

Editor's Notes - Corrections

by Richard D. Bates, Jr.

In the previous issue of the *CZP*, the figures in two articles were incorrectly labeled.

In the article "30c Williamson-Related Items in the NPM Vault," *CZP* 49(2):14-5 (2013), the correct figures for the full sheets are given below.

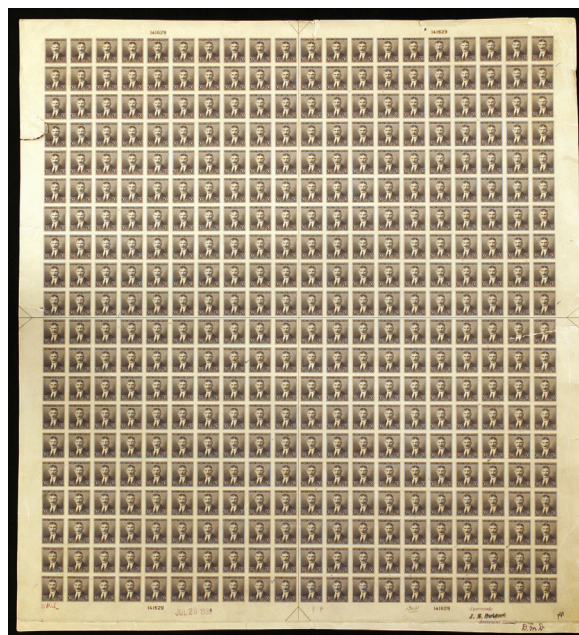


Fig. 1 Scott No. 113 30c Williamson plate proof of full sheet showing plate as originally produced, with "approved July 20, 1939" in the bottom margin (this should have been Fig. 2 in the article)

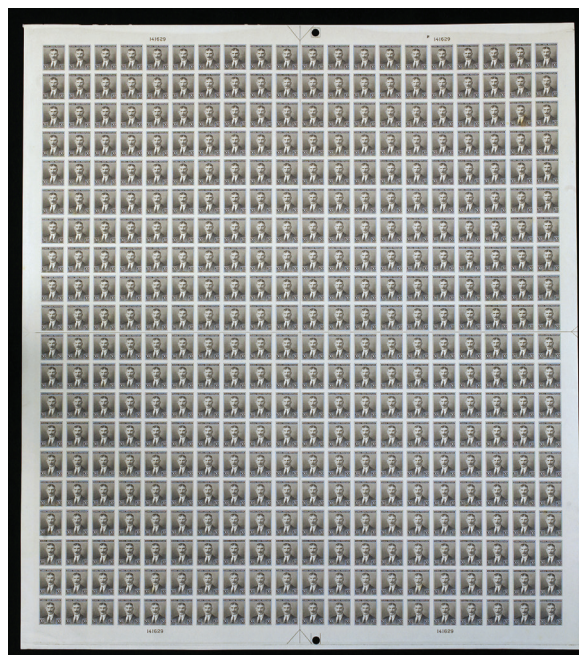


Fig. 2 Scott No. 113 30c Williamson press sheet of full sheet showing plate as modified with the addition of boxes for alignment holes at top and bottom (this should have been Fig. 3 in the article)

In the article about the newly discovered double transfer on Scott No. 79, the two images showing stamps with the variety on Nos. 79 and 93 were interchanged. The correct figures and captions are shown at the bottom of the adjacent column.

Discoveries Relating to Canal Zone Postal Cards. Part 1: Information Obtained from Press Sheets for Postal Cards by Irwin Gibbs and Richard D. Bates, Jr.

Recently, there have been several discoveries reported that relate to Canal Zone postal cards. Some have come from members, others from materials in the National Postal Museum vault. In general not all of these are of sufficient significance to warrant listing in *Scott* or *CZ Postal Stationery*, but members should be informed so that the information becomes part of the knowledge base about these items. This is the first in a series of short articles in the *CZP* that will describe the discoveries.

Canal Zone Postal Card Press Sheets

The National Postal Museum houses proof sheets and press sheets for the stamps designed during 1928-1979 by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing for the Canal Zone Postal Service. Included with them are six press sheets on heavy paper for postal cards issued in 1958, 1965, and 1968. They are:

- UX12 (S20) Number 53941: the 3c card approved October 2, 1958 in dark blue
- UXC1 (SA1) Number 53954: the 5c Airmail card, plane, map, and stars in the border, in black (normal color is blue) approved October 6, 1958
- UXC1 (SA1) Number 53955: the 5c Airmail card, with remaining design and inscription reading "AIR MAIL-POSTAL CARD," plane, map, and stars in the border, in black (normal color is carmine rose) approved October 6, 1958
- UX12 (S20) Number 53973: the 3c Panama Canal Lock card in black, October 23, 1958
- UX15 (S24) Number 56303: the 4c Panama Canal Lock card in green, May 27, 1965
- UX17 (S27) Number 57689: the 5c Panama Canal Lock card in light blue, October 22, 1968

Each of these postal card press sheets contains 30 images, 5 across by 6 down. The upper left corner of each sheet shows two numbers specific to the card, as shown in Fig. 1, that were normally cut off when the cards were printed and then cut apart. The other number, 13716C, is presumed to be an order number, but that is not confirmed.



Fig. 1 Upper left corner of the press sheet for UX12 showing plate number 53941 at upper left and two of the 30 cards on the sheet

The lower left portion of the sheet shown in Fig. 2 provides additional information, including the notation that the design was approved, a handstamped approval date, and the identifier for the color used to print the sheet. A Specimen handstamp further to the right along the bottom of the press sheet as shown in Fig. 3.



Fig. 2 Lower left corner of press sheet for plate number 53941 for card UX12 (S20) showing approval markings

Press Sheet for Postal Card UXC1 (SA1) shows the flaw above the "A" in CANAL

The press sheet for plate 53954 shown in Fig. 3 illustrates the part of the design for UXC1 containing the plane, map, and stars in the border and the words "POSTAL CARD" within the stamp. This sheet is of special note. There is a known variety on UXC1, given in *CZ Postal Stationery* as SA1a, that appears as a flaw above the first "A" in "CANAL" in the map. Fig. 3 shows the image from the lower right corner of the press sheet for UXC1. This flaw does, in fact, appear on the press sheet, indicating that it did not occur during the process of printing the cards, but is a plate flaw that was there from the beginning. Surprisingly, it actually is present in two positions on the press sheet. If it appeared in only one place, and cards from each of the 30 positions were equally likely to reach the public, then the odds that any given card has the flaw is one in 30, before additional considerations like which cards were actually saved. But as it appears in two places, the odds increase to one in 15. The flaws in the two positions are shown in Fig. 4. Even with a magnifying glass they appear to be identical.



Fig. 3 Nine positions of the press sheet for card UXC1 showing two positions (the UL and UR in the figure) with the flaw above the first "A" in CANAL

It is not clear how this arose. One might think that two images with the flaw would have been the final two images to be transferred to the plate. However, this seems less likely, given that the two positions in which the flaw appears are not adjacent to each other, instead being found in the 3rd and 5th positions across in the 4th row down on the plate proof.

Appreciation is expressed to Jim O'Donnell of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum for assistance in locating and scanning the postal card press sheets.

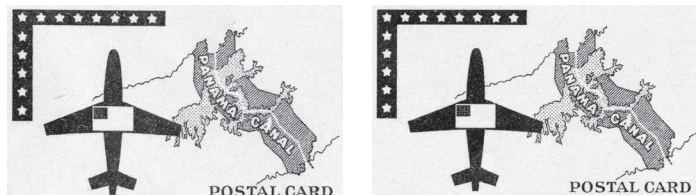


Fig. 4 Designs from the two positions with the flaw from the press sheet for UXC1

Handling of World War II Army Official Business Mail in the Canal Zone

by Paul Ammons, Russ Carter, and Harry Metzler

This is an update of the article published in the Fall 2009 *Military Postal History Society Bulletin* [1] and covers the same time-line as a series of *CZP* articles on handling of World War II civil official business mail in the Canal Zone. [2-6]

The Panama Canal Department (PCD), Quarry Heights, Canal Zone (CZ), the higher headquarters for all Army units in the CZ, did not begin postal censorship operations until December 15, 1941, the delay probably being due to the need to await orders to do so from the Caribbean Defense Command (CDC), Quarry Heights, CZ, the higher headquarters of the PCD. Implementation was directed by a December 15, 1941 Commanding General (CG), PCD letter, subject: Military Censorship, to Commanding Officers of all posts, camps, and stations:

"1. Pursuant to instructions received from the Commanding General, Caribbean Defense Command, military censorship, under the provisions of Section IX, FM 30-25, will be placed in effect for this department at once."

The responsibility for establishing and administering military censorship in the PCD fell to the Assistant Chief of Staff, Military Intelligence (G-2). Operations were initially governed by Field Manual, Military Intelligence, Military Censorship, FM 30-25, February 15, 1940, which was superseded by FM 30-26, January 21, 1942, and again by FM 30-28, Military Intelligence, Military Censorship, September 15, 1944. Additional guidance and instructions were received from the War Department.

Although copies of only the 1940 and 1944 Field Manuals and War Department Training Circular No. 15, Military Censorship, February 16, 1943, have been located, it is believed that major changes occurred in the 1942 Field Manual. It also seems likely that the PCD issued supplemental instructions to account for observed changes. The information in this article is based on the 1940 and 1944 Field Manuals, the 1943 Training Circular, the original implementing order, and an analysis of over 1,300 1941-1943 censored covers.

War Department (WD) official business (OB) mail falling within the following categories was not initially subject to censor examination:

1. Mail from one headquarters to another headquarters
2. Mail from one general officer to another general officer
3. Mail between a headquarters and a recognized governmental agency
4. Mail between a headquarters and an individual.

However, such mail could be examined if there was cause to suspect that the contents were not official.

Apparently, WD OB mail was sent directly to the nearest US Postal facility without being processed through Army censors.

This all changed when the Office of Censorship (OOC) assumed responsibility and control of civil censorship on or about March 1, 1942 from the PCD which retained control of military censorship. A CG, PCD letter sent to all commands, subject: Control of Official Mail, on February 28, 1942 states:

- "1. Beginning 5 March 1942, the U. S. Postal authorities in the Canal Zone will return to sender all official mail which does not bear on the envelope the imprint of a stamp indicating that the contents of the envelope have been inspected and certified to contain only official matter.
2. An official stamp to be used for this purpose is forwarded herewith to each of the [35] following commanders."

Fig. 1 shows an example of this 1 5/16 inch diameter handstamp.



Fig. 1
Example of
1 5/16 inch diameter
handstamp

A CG, PCD letter sent to all commands, same subject, on March 4, 1942, identified five additional commands that initially received the new official stamps and stated that the US Postal authorities would no longer accept Army mail that did not bear some sort of imprint identifying that the contents had been subject to Army censorship or were certified to contain only official matter as of March 7, 1942. Further, that letter identified 22 additional commands and PCD divisions that would be forwarded official stamps in a few days. Based on an analysis of 83 covers with this circular official handstamp, 47 prior to June 1, 1942 with CZ post office cancellations, eventually there may have been at least 97 numbers assigned. The earliest reported use is a March 7, 1942 Official 1 cover from the Headquarters, CDC to the War Department, Washington, DC, sold on eBay.

Fig. 2 shows an example of circular official handstamp 1 on a registered, air mail cover postmarked June 22, 1942 at the Balboa Heights post office to the Military Attache, American Legation, Quito, Ecuador.



Fig. 2 Example of circular official handstamp 1
on a registered, air mail cover

The number assignment of these circular official handstamps is as follows:

1. Commanding General, Caribbean Defense Command
2. Commanding General, Panama Canal Department
3. Commanding General, Panama Mobile Force
4. Commanding General, Panama Coast Artillery Command
5. Commanding General, Caribbean Air Force
6. Commanding Officer, Albrook Field
7. Commanding Officer, Fort Amador
8. Commanding Officer, Post of Corozal
9. Commanding Officer, Fort Clayton
10. Commanding Officer, Camp Chorrera
11. Commanding Officer, Fort William D. Davis
12. Commanding Officer, Fort DeLesseps
13. Commanding Officer, France Field
14. Commanding Officer, Fort Gulick
15. Commanding Officer, Howard Field
16. Commanding Officer, Fort Kobbe
17. Commanding Officer, Camp Paraiso

18. Commanding Officer, Camp Pacora
19. Commanding Officer, Post of Quarry Heights
20. Commanding Officer, Fort Randolph
21. Commanding Officer, Air Base, Rio Hato, Panama
22. Commanding Officer, Fort Sherman
23. Commanding Officer, Panama Air Depot
24. Finance Officer, US Army, Post of Corozal
25. Finance Officer, US Army, Fort Gulick
26. Commanding Officer, Panama Atlantic General Depot, Fort William D. Davis
27. Commanding Officer, Panama Pacific General Depot, Post of Corozal
28. Department Engineer
29. Department Finance Officer
30. Department Ordnance Officer
31. Department Quartermaster
32. Department Signal Officer
33. Department Surgeon
34. Commanding Officer, Panama Area Service Command
35. Commanding Officer, 83rd Coast Artillery
36. Department Inspector General
37. Department Chemical Officer
38. Finance Officer, Albroom Field
39. Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, PCD
40. Finance Officer, Fort Kobbe
49. Signal Supply Officer, Panama Pacific General Depot
55. Commanding Officer, 14th Infantry
60. Commanding Officer, 82nd Coast Artillery
69. Ordnance Supply Officer, Panama Pacific General Depot
- tbd Commanding General, Atlantic Brigade, Panama Coast Artillery Command
- tbd Commanding General, Pacific Brigade, Panama Coast Artillery Command
- tbd Commanding General, Panama Interceptor Command
- tbd Commanding General, 6th Bomber Command
- tbd Officer in Charge, MRU, PCD
- tbd Engineer Supply Officer, Panama Pacific General Depot
- tbd Medical Supply Officer, Panama Pacific General Depot
- tbd Engineer Supply Officer, Panama Atlantic General Depot
- tbd Medical Supply Officer, Panama Atlantic General Depot
- tbd Signal Supply Officer, Panama Atlantic General Depot
- tbd Ordnance Supply Officer, Panama Atlantic General Depot
- tbd Commanding Officer, 11th Engineers
- tbd Commanding Officer, 5th Infantry
- tbd Commanding Officer, 150th Infantry
- tbd Commanding Officer, 158th Infantry
- tbd Commanding Officer, 72nd Coast Artillery
- tbd Commanding Officer, 73rd Coast Artillery
- tbd Commanding Officer, 83rd Coast Artillery
83. (Exchange 829-1) Fort Davis
87. (Exchange 833-1) Camp Paraiso
88. (Exchange 836-1) Fort Sherman
90. (Exchange 836-1) Fort Sherman
92. (Exchange 838-1) Rio Hato
97. Commanding Officer, 88th Coast Artillery

The circular official handstamp is believed to have been used for only eight months, through the end of October 1942.

It should be noted that, according to OOC regulations, official military mail was considered to be privileged mail which was not to be censored. The handstamps applied to mail certifying the contents were official military business were not technically censor handstamps. Therefore, the individuals applying the circular Official handstamp described above and the boxed Official Mail certification handstamps described below, probably were not military censor officers. To the OOC, the handstamps actually meant "do not censor." To Canal Zone postal clerks between March 5, 1942 and June 30, 1942, the handstamps meant the mail had been properly handled in accordance with OOC regulations prior to its receipt at the post office. To military postal clerks starting July 1, 1942, the handstamps meant the item was to be handled as controlled mail.

According to Wayne Worthington, WD OB mail and WD Essential Mail (WDEM) appear to have been levels of controlled mail that fell below the levels of CONFIDENTIAL and SECRET classified material which had their own form of special handling. Perhaps in a time before full electronic messaging, WD OB mail and WDEM were levels that a soldier today would recognize as OFFICIAL USE ONLY and EYES ONLY messages. Of course, the way things were supposed to work according to OOC regulations and the way they actually worked in the field is another matter.

Beginning in November 1942, WD OB mail had the 1 7/16 inch high x 2 3/8 inch wide, boxed, generic, official mail certification handstamp shown in Fig. 3.

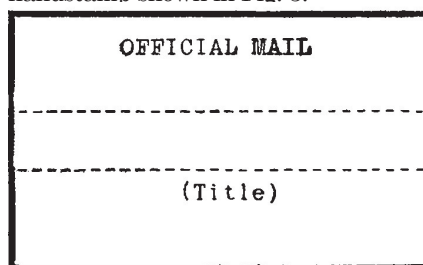


Fig. 3
Boxed, generic,
official mail
certification
handstamp

Fig. 4 is an example of this handstamp on a WD OB penalty envelope with pre-printed return address.



Fig. 4 WD OB pre-printed penalty envelope
with printed return address

This official certification handstamp is similar to ones used on Panama Canal (civil) OB mail. So far, we have been unable to find any PCD or Panama Canal Executive Office correspondence referring to this change. It is quite likely that the change was orchestrated by, and approved through, the OOC.

Fig. 5 is an example of the equivalent civil official mail certification handstamp on a US governmental agency envelope with pre-printed return address and handstamped local office return address.

Beginning sometime later on a date yet to be determined, WD OB mail is observed to also have the generic certification handstamp shown in Fig. 6. Again, we have been unable to find

continued on page 30

WW II Army Official Business Mail I

continued from page 29



Fig. 5 Example with pre-printed return address and handstamped local address

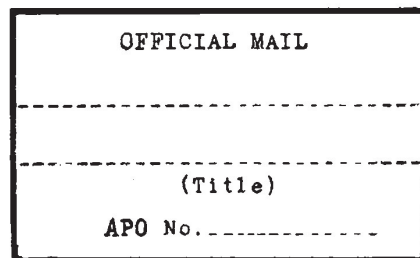


Fig. 6
Generic
certification
handstamp with
APO No. line

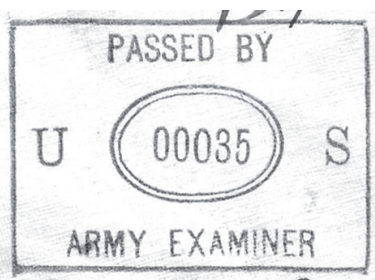


Fig. 7 Handstamp
reading "PASSED
BY US ARMY
EXAMINER"

anything regarding this change. Unfortunately, we do not have a scan of a CZ-originated cover with this handstamp.

During the 1942-1943 period, WD OB mail is also known to have the All-Army standard unit censor mark, Fig. 7, the framed "Passed By.....Army Examiner" boxed oval handstamp familiar to most collectors of World War II military postal history, instead of the circular OFFICIAL or boxed OFFICIAL MAIL certification handstamp. Mail that did not fully meet one of the first three requirements for official business mail listed at the beginning of this article was subject to unit level Army censorship.

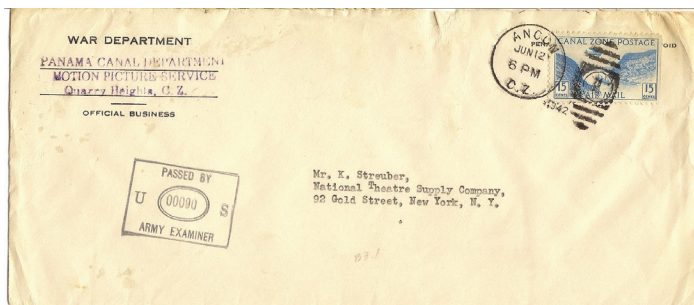


Fig. 8 "PASSED BY US ARMY EXAMINER" handstamp on a WD OB pre-printed penalty envelope with handstamped PCD unit return address.

Fig. 8 is an example of the All-Army standard unit censor mark on a WD OB pre-printed penalty envelope with handstamped PCD unit return address.



Fig. 9 Cover from Post Exchange, Fort Davis with boxed 'WD Essential Official Air Mail' certification handstamp

Fig. 9 is an example of the boxed, one-line 'WD Essential Official Air Mail' certification handstamp on CZ-originated correspondence. The cover in Fig. 1 has an equivalent typewritten certification.

Civil censorship in the Canal Zone was suspended on August 16, 1945 (Canal Zone Postal Circular 717). Censorship of civil OB mail was suspended on August 18, 1945 (Canal Zone Postal Circular L-154). Military censorship was discontinued sometime between September 2, 1945 and September 14, 1945 (PCD September 11, 1945 letter and Canal Zone Postal Circular 719).

The authors would like to thank all those who have contributed to the current study, especially Wayne Worthington and Robert Karrer, two Army Post Office and military postal history collectors and authors who graciously provided information and scans for a majority of the cover examples so far inventoried.

We seek your assistance in identifying additional examples of WD OB mail bearing some sort of imprint, particularly any imprint not covered by this article. We have documented only 23 of the 40 initially assigned circular official handstamps and only a very few of the others. Scans or photocopies of covers would be sincerely appreciated.

References

- [1] *Military Postal History Society Bulletin*, Fall 2009 (Vol. 48, No. 4), pgs. 7-9.
- [2] "New W.W. II Canal Zone Civil Censor Hand Stamp," *CZP 45(1):3* (2009).
- [3] "Handling of World War II Civil Official Business Mail in the Canal Zone," *CZP 45(3):34-35* (2009).
- [4] "Earliest and Latest Reported Usages of Censor Handstamps Use on WWII Official Business Mail," *CZP 46(1):6-7* (2010).
- [5] "ERU and LRU of Censor Handstamps Used on WWII Official Business Mail – An Update," *CZP 46(4):42* (2010).
- [6] "Handling of World War II Civil Official Business Mail in the Canal Zone – A Continuing Update," *CZP 47(4):43* (2011).

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World's Largest Stamp Gallery Opens at National Postal Museum.

Canal Zone Items on Exhibit

by Cheryl R. Ganz and Richard D. Bates, Jr.

The new William H. Gross Stamp Gallery at the National Postal Museum opened to the delight of museum visitors on September 22, 2013.

The gallery includes new exhibits that incorporate Canal Zone material. A large case in the National Stamp Salon, the gallery space with specialized US and US-related philately, displays three-dimensional historical artifacts from the National Philatelic Collection such as medals, handstamps, and dies, including two CZ precancel devices (one is the rolling pin) and some CZ working dies for printing CZ envelopes.

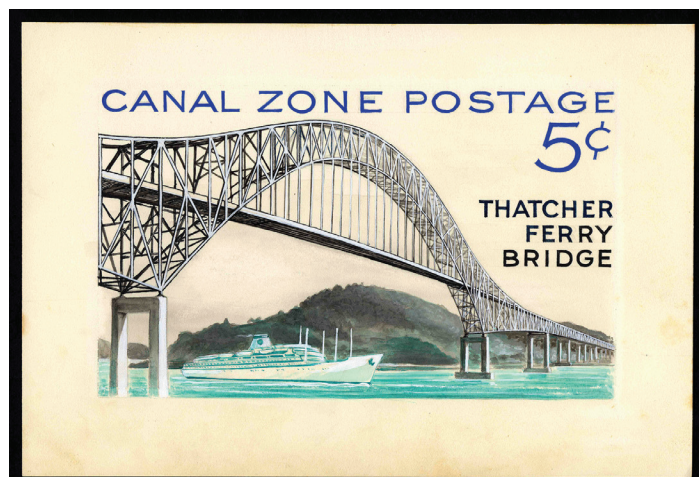


Fig. 1 Thatcher Bridge Ferry stamp artwork, in 5c denomination as originally planned in anticipation of a rate increase



Fig. 2 LL Pane of Thatcher Ferry Bridge stamp with silver (bridge) omitted

Second, a multi-frame pullout exhibit tells the story of the development of the Thatcher Ferry Bridge stamp and how the "Missing Bridge" error arose and was handled. This will be on long-term display. The exhibit traces the development of the stamp through drawings (see Fig. 1), approved design, plate proofs, and final printed product. It also documents the pane discovered by H. E. Harris now broken up and in the hands of philatelists. The two complete panes of the missing bridge error, one of which is shown in Fig. 2, that are in the National Philatelic Collection will be on display in this exhibit.

The first rotating exhibit in the museum's Postmasters Suite will be on display from September 22, 2013, to January 5, 2014. Called "Favorite Finds," it brings together an assortment of philatelic items shared by the Museum's Council of Philatelists, philatelic curators, and museum supporters. They will be illustrated in a booklet of the same name that is on sale at the NPM gift shop or can be downloaded for free at www.postalmuseum.si.edu/StampGallery/favoritefinds.html. It includes one Canal Zone item among the 34 items on display, a block of four of Canal Zone No. 92 that includes one example of the ZONE CANAL error at LL. This block is shown in Fig. 3.



Fig. 3 Block of four incorporating a copy of the ZONE CANAL error on No. 92 that will be in the "Favorite Finds" exhibit at the NPM

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Study Group News

Secretary's Report

Mike Drabik

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Hello and greetings to all. I hope that everyone has had a wonderful summer and is ready for the cooler months of autumn.

As of September 8, 2013, there are 538 members of the Canal Zone Study Group (including 50 members who are not current in payment of their 2013 CZSG dues).

Please join me in welcoming our newest members:

Charles Soto, Jr., CZSG # 2689

Frank C. Wheeler, CZSG # 2690

Mary L. Nelson, CZSG # 2691

Peter E. Marshall, CZSG # 2692

Leonard A. Nadybal, CZSG # 2693

I am very happy to welcome back to the CZSG as dues paying members:

Edward C. Jackson, CZSG # 791

Howard Ballou, CZSG # 2688

We have been notified of changes to the addresses for the following CZSG members:

Steven Runyon, CZSG # 1760

Marc Kilbride, CZSG # 339

It is with great sadness and condolences to his family that I have been notified of the passing of our fellow CZSG member: Tom Saatoft, CZSG # 552

I would like to mention an effort to recruit new members for the CZSG. I asked the American Philatelic Society (APS) to send me the addresses of any of its members who had listed the Canal Zone in their APS member profiles as an area of interest. I was pleased to receive 267 preprinted address labels from the APS. After sorting through the labels to remove existing CZSG members, I sent a mailing to 173 APS members that contained an invitation to join the CZSG, a back issue of our *Canal Zone Philatelist*, and a CZSG membership application. I hope this effort will bring into the CZSG some new members. Lastly it is possible that you may have received one of these mailings because I missed removing the label with your address; if so enjoy the back issue I've sent or better yet pass the mailing on to someone who would be interested in joining the CZSG!

As always thanks for your support and let me know if you have any questions or comments.

CZSG Meeting at NAEPEX 2013

A small group of CZSG members met at NAEPEX 2013 held in Tysons Corner, VA on June 1st. The principal topics of conversation were the plans for CZSG as a sponsoring society at WESTPEX and CHICAGOPEX, both in 2014; the recently updated Index to the *CZP* distributed to members with the 2nd Q 2013 issue of the *CZP*; the Checklist currently being revised; and potential articles for the *CZP*, including one by Wayne Worthington on the 805th Engineer Battalion. Members showed recent purchases including the newly discovered double transfer on No. 79 described elsewhere in the 2nd Q 2013 *CZP*, and ways to spot such DTs were described.

Meeting attendees, from the left: Steve Dubina, Sid Crawford, Wayne Worthington, Dick Larkin, Dick Bates, and Len McMaster.

CZSG Meeting at APS StampShow 2013



Front row: Dickson Preston, John Farkas, Fred Levantrosser, Gary Weiss; Second row: Win Schaeffer, John Wynns, Len McMaster, Richard Bates; Third row: Doug Lehmann, Dan Ring, Don Peterson; Fourth row: Jim Kloetzel, Dave McMurtrie, Mary Izzo, Niki Oquist

A meeting of the CZSG took place in an abbreviated timeslot at StampShow 2013 in Milwaukee on Saturday, August 10, 2013, with 14 members and a guest attending.

Prior to the two presentations that comprised the majority of the meeting, a brief membership meeting was conducted. Those present introduced themselves, and said something about their collecting interests. Dickson Preston gave an overview of the plans for the CZSG as a participating society at both WESTPEX 2014 and CHICAGOPEX 2014. He expressed interest in learning of any talks members would be willing to present, and encouraged those planning to exhibit to get their applications in early. Some discussion took place about plans, which are in preliminary form, for the CZSG to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the Opening of the Panama Canal in August of 2014.

Members expressed appreciation for the recently distributed Index for the *CZP* for 1953-2012, and looked forward to receiving the revised Checklist soon to be available. Appreciation was expressed for updates and revisions to the next edition of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue*.

The rest of the meeting time was devoted to two talks. The first by Gary B. Weiss entitled "ANAL ZONE and other CANAL ZONE Freaks" showed examples of different Canal Zone varieties, including those produced that resulted in only part of the CANAL ZONE overprint appearing on the face of the stamp. The second by Richard D. Bates Jr., "Wrong Font and Plate Varieties on US Stamps Overprinted Canal Zone," examined recently discovered examples of wrong font overprints and plate varieties on US stamps with CANAL ZONE overprints, including ways to spot these varieties.



Upcoming Meetings

As a Participating Society in Future National Meetings

WESTPEX 2014

San Francisco, CA • April 25-27, 2014

CHICAGOPEX 2014

Itasca (Chicago), IL • November 21-23, 2014

Thorne Estate Sale – February 1907

by David Zemer

One of the first important auctions of Canal Zone stamps took place at The Collectors Club in New York City on February 14, 1907. This sale had been noted in the *CZP* by Dick Salz [1] where he mentioned that he would be pleased to report on this ... *fabulous sale where Scott 4,5,6,7, and 8 in blocks of 6 with imprint and plate numbers sold for \$ 10.25...* (vs. a 1985 catalogue value of \$7000). Salz promised to give more details from this sale if requested, but from what I could see there never had been a follow-up article. The Wm. Thorne sale was all but forgotten until this Spring when Federico Brid forwarded to me a link to a 1907 *New York Times* article that had been sent to him by Peter Cheng. [2]

The headlines of the *N.Y. Times* article:

RARE STAMP SALE REALIZES \$7,968 High Prices for Thorne Collection of Panama Zone Issues

quickly caught my eye and I read about the estate auction of William Thorne which Walter S. Scott, the auctioneer, said was the highest total ever realized in America for a one-night sale.

The Thorne sale featured stamps from Puerto Principe, Panama, the Canal Zone, and Coamo with the highest price of \$245 realized for a block of four of the Canal Zone Scott No. 1:

...from the centre of the sheet, two of the stamps having "Panama" reading up and two reading down. The words "Canal Zone" are inverted on all four of the stamps, one of them having double surcharge, both inverted. No other copy of the Canal Zone double inverted is known.

The article goes on to say that Mr. Thorne bought this block of four stamps a year before from John A. Kleeman for only \$8. The description for this block of four sounded familiar and I found it in *CZ Stamps* [3] and later in the Plass Sale [4] where it had commanded a hammer price of \$18,000, the highest priced single lot in the Plass Canal Zone collection (See Fig. 1).

There were 60 lots in the Canal Zone section of the Thorne sale and the large number of blocks and full sheets is amazing. The catalogue claims that almost everything is represented in blocks of four and after the First Series most can be found in full



Fig. 1 Block of four with "Canal Zone" inverted and double on the bottom right stamp. Lot 309, 1993 Plass Sale, photo courtesy Ivy, Shreve & Mader

sheets of 100. A typical example of this is Lot 376 which sold for \$38, described as:

... 8c on 50c, First Printing. Entire sheet of 100 with all the varieties (Bartels' 17a, b,c,aa,bb,ee). Entire sheets of this printing are rare.

The Canal Zone section of the Thorne collection finishes with Scott Number 20 in Lot 399, hammered down at \$13:

...8c on 50c, on Fourth Panama, Sept., 1906, Sheet of 100 containing all the varieties of Canal Zone and PAMANA on 54 and 59.

A copy of this catalogue will be emailed to anyone who contacts me at sosahill@hotmail.com. Please request the "1907 Thorne Auction Catalogue" in the Subject space.

This elusive catalogue surfaced through the efforts of Ernesto Cuesta and his website www.philat.com; Scott Tiffney, Reference Assistant at the APRL; and the Collectors' Club where it was finally found and made available to us by R. Bruce Marsden, Library Chairman, and Irene Bromberg, Executive Secretary.

References

- [1] Richard Salz, "Second Time Around," *CZP* 21(2):16 (1985).
- [2] <http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/>.
- [3] *Canal Zone Stamps*, "First Series," Fig. 2.8, p. 13.
- [4] *The Dr. Gilbert N. Plass Collection of United States Possessions featuring Canal Zone*, Lot 309, July 7-10, 1993, Ivy, Shreve & Mader, New York City, New York, p 4, 111 (color photo).

Auctions

by Jim Crumpacker

The latest three-month period for which auction results are available, April 1-June 30, 2013, constituted a modestly active quarter for Canal Zone philately. No auction house had a large sale, so there was not much of great interest on offer. Presented below are a few lots of note.

The first price shown is the hammer plus commission cost and is followed in parentheses by the value listed in the 2013 *Scott Catalogue*.

- 1, str. of 3, F on VF sl. reduced cover Ancon 7/9/04 to Colon \$738 (\$1300) H.R. Harmer
- 2, 3 both F on VF cover Cristobal 7/13/04 to US, \$1003 (\$515) H.R. Harmer
- 14b, CANAL ZONE inverted, TG, barely F, \$189 (\$450) Kelleher
- 94, OG, NH, VF+ \$431 (\$375) Rumsey
- 95, VF on Carter cover, Balb. Hts. 1/20/27 to US \$345 (\$1000) Rumsey
- 157a, silver (bridge) omitted, OG, NH, VF \$7375 (\$8000) H.R. Harmer

- CO14a, inverted overprint, OG, H, barely F, \$1495 (\$2500) Cherrystone
- UF1 (UPSS R1), VF w/ F #53 added, Ancon 2/2/20 to NYC \$1380 (\$2000) Rumsey
- UX1a, double surcharge, mint entire, XF \$1265 (\$1500) Rumsey

The names and addresses of these various auction firms are:

Cherrystone Philatelic Auctioneers
119 W. 57th St.
New York, NY 10019

H.R. Harmer, Inc.
2680 Walnut Ave., Suite AB
Tustin, CA 92780

Kelleher Auctions
60 Newtown Rd., PMB #44
Danbury, CT 06810

Rumsey Auctions
47 Kearney St. Auctions
San Francisco, CA 94108

Canal Zone First Series Covers: An Update of the Salz Census

by George R. Campbell

In the earliest years of the CZSG, charter member Rudolph B. ("Rudy") Weiler (CZSG # 4) spearheaded a project to compile information on covers bearing the stamps of the First Series (Scott Nos. 1-3). Members will recall that the First Series was a hastily prepared provisional issue, with handstamped CANAL ZONE overprints on Panama stamps. The First Issue was in circulation for a mere 24 days, from June 24 to July 17, 1904. Mr. Weiler's research culminated in the publication of an article in the *1954 American Philatelic Congress Book* [1], subsequently reprinted as *CZSG Handbook No. 3*, which is still available from our Publications Office. [2] At the time of publication, 342 First Series covers had been recorded. It is considered likely that some of these were fakes, since a later tally in 1970 noted a total of only 335 covers. [3] The most plentiful originating post office cancellation was from Cristobal (162), and the fewest were from Gatun (2).

Rudy Weiler's census was continued by the late Floyd R. Brooks, who had himself accumulated a substantial quantity of First Series covers that were eventually sold at a Mozian Auction in June 1973. The Weiler-Brooks listing was passed on to the late Richard H. (Dick) Salz in the early 1970s. Dick decided to expand the census by attempting to obtain a photocopy of every known cover. In this regard, he was very successful and the result has come to be known today as the "Salz Census." Dick mounted each picture on 5 1/2 x 8 index cards, to which he added pertinent descriptive information, such as Scott numbers, originating CZ post office, transit and destination markings, backstamps (where available), and current owners or sources of information. The cards were grouped by franking (Scott No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, and combinations of Scott Nos.), and arranged chronologically and alphabetically by CZ Post Office. Since many of the First Series covers were prepared in quantity (most notably by J.C. Perry and his cohorts), the index cards were also ordered alphabetically by addressee. Similar covers (same date, franking, origin, addressee) were filed in the order received. Dick's census was maintained in wooden file boxes, sized to accommodate the relative number of covers for each stamp (See Fig. 1). Box No.1 contained Scott No. 1 and "combo" covers, plus fakes of all numbers; the remaining two boxes were assigned to Scott Nos. 2 and 3.



Fig. 1
The three wooden
file boxes comprising
the Salz census

In his later years, and in declining health, Dick sought to transfer the responsibility for maintaining the census of First Series covers. The author agreed to take on this task, with assistance of the CZSG Metro Chapter. One of our goals has been to digitize the information contained on Dick's file cards and eventually make the data available on the CZSG website.

This has proved to be a challenging task, due in part to the limited computer skills of the author. As well, many of the cover photos are black and white or of too poor quality for transfer to the data base. We have, however, continued to maintain and add to the "Salz Census," based on new discoveries and/or improved color images received from CZSG members. We also regularly respond to requests for information from CZ researchers. The most common inquiries relate to whether the items offered for sale, e.g., on eBay, are genuine. Other questions have concerned the relative scarcity of certain First Series covers.

Since it has been over 60 years since Rudy Weiler published the results of his research, we feel that an update is in order. Table 1 lists the currently reported First Series covers, by town of origin and franking. There is a total of 694 genuine First Series covers in the "Salz Census." Note that this total includes errors and varieties of the major Scott numbers. Of these, 692 bear town markings, but two show only the typical 7-bar "Canal Zone" cancellation. Ancon is now the originating town with the most plentiful covers (227), displacing Cristobal in the original inventory. Gatun remains the most elusive town, with only five (Fig. 2). San Pablo and Matachin are also scarce, with seven and fourteen, respectively.

**Table 1 Distribution of First Series Covers
by Originating Town and Scott Number**

TOWN	EKU	SC. #1**	SC. #2	SC. #3	COMBOS***	TOTAL
Ancon	6/24	16	98	99	14	227
Bohio	6/26	18	10	10	5	43
Cristobal	6/26	2	91	55	16	164
Culebra	6/24	1	11	9	8	29
Empire	7/1	-	15	22	5	42
Gatun	7/6	1	2	2	-	5
Gorgona	7/2	-	19	13	-	32
La Boca	6/24	24	24	72	9	124
Matachin	7/4	-	10	4	-	14
San Pablo*	7/11	-	2	5	-	7
No CDS	-	-	-	2	-	2
TOTALS		62	282	293	57	694

* P.O. established 7/7/04; all others 6/24 or 6/25/04

** Includes 36 multiples (32 strips of 3) on cover; 25 postcards; 1 wrapper

*** Combinations of different Scott Nos: #2+3 (29); #1+2+3 (19); #1+2 (7); #1+3 (2)

Most First Series covers, particularly those from philatelists, were addressed locally, to the CZ or to Panama. Relatively few covers were sent to the US. Foreign destinations account for a total of 34, as shown in Table 2. Note that four destinations are unique: Austro-Hungary, Guatemala, Philippines, and Switzerland (See Fig. 3).



Fig. 2
First series
cover with
scarce Gatun
cancel

Table 2
Summary of Known First Series Covers to Foreign Destinations

DESTINATION COUNTRY	NUMBER REPORTED
Germany	20
England	5
France	3
Ecuador	2
Austro-Hungary	1
Guatemala	1
Philippines	1
Switzerland	1
TOTALS	34



Fig. 3 First series cover to Austro-Hungary, a unique destination

Although some controversy surrounding the first day of issue of the First Series existed in the “early days,” there is a sufficient number of covers and off-cover examples to confirm June 24, 1904 as the first day (See Fig. 4). At the present time, there are 3 FDCs known: one “combo” cover, with Scott No. 2 and 3, and one each bearing Scott Nos. 2 and 3.



Fig. 4 First day cover of first series stamps (Scott Nos. 2-3)

The “Salz Census” also contains information on faked First Series covers. The current count stands at 36, all of which were sent to Panama, with the majority (25) originating at Ancon on either July 13 or 14, 1904. The reader is referred to Dick Bates’ article in the *CZP* 44(3):29 (2008) for further details.

In conclusion, we have learned much from researchers about the fascinating, short-lived First Series. Yet, new information continues to be developed and new finds continue to be reported. Members are urged to communicate new discoveries to the author at campgs@optonline.net. Color scans of any First Series covers are always welcome, so that we may improve the images in the “Salz Census.”

Acknowledgement

The author is grateful to Dr. Gary B. Weiss for providing the color scans shown in Figs. 2-4 and for suggesting revisions to the article.

References

- [1] “The First Series of 1904,” *CZSG Notes* 1(2):12 and 1(3):22-23 (1953).
- [2] Weiler, Rudolph B., “Canal Zone First Issue on Cover,” *Twentieth American Philatelic Congress Book* (1954).
- [3] “First Series,” *CZP* 6(3):28 (1970).

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The 805th Engineer Battalion (AVN)

by Wayne Worthington

In June 2010, I wrote an article on the 11th Combat Engineer Regiment which was a long-serving unit in the Panama Canal Zone. The article was published in the *Isthmian Collectors Club Journal (ICCJ)*, May-June 2010, Volume 10-04. CZSG member and editor of the *ICCJ*, Robert Karrer, went into his extensive library and added a significant quantity of facts and photos that provided collectors a good understanding of the 11th's roles and missions on the Zone from June 1921 to April 1943. This article concerns one of the additional units attached to the 11th Combat Engineer Regiment.

The 11th was a standard Combat Engineer Regiment performing road and bridge building and repair, early barracks construction, demolition missions, terrain and mapping surveys, camouflage operations and training, and defensive positions development.

The Regiment started out at Corozal and was re-positioned in the 1930s to Fort Clayton. Fig. 1 shows a World War II cover from a Company of the Regiment at their final cantonment.



Fig. 1 Company F, 11th Engineers Fort Clayton cover

Prior to WWII, the 11th, as the senior Army engineer unit on the Zone, began taking on additional missions requiring expanded skills found in specialized engineer units. Additional units to be attached included a pontoon hasty bridge and ferry unit (72nd Engineer Co. (LP)), a topographic unit (662nd Engineer Co. (Topo)), two camouflage units (the 84th Engineer Battalion (Cam) and the 637th Engineer Company (Cam)), and the subject of this article, 805th Engineer Battalion (AVN).

Army Air Corps General Hap Arnold requested "a small group of skilled construction and engineer troops, closely trained alongside air units, with the ability to repair bomb-damaged airfields, to camouflage airfields, and if necessary, to defend airfields. These troops would also be capable of constructing light duty airfields in forward locations." Fig. 2 shows a combat bulldozer at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio. This is just one of a broad range of heavy equipment assigned to the Aviation Engineers.

In preparation for WWII, the US Army formed 86 specialized Engineer Battalions (AVN) and the 805th was the first formed



Fig. 2 Combat bulldozer used for hasty construction



Fig. 3 Headquarters Company, 805th Engineers (AVN) cover

and deployed for action. Much like the Navy Construction Battalions (CBs/Seabees), the Army units were equipped with heavy machinery to build combat airfields.

The 805th was formed at Macdill AAB Florida on February 12, 1941, and sent to the Canal Zone, arriving March 26, 1941. The Battalion was organized with a Headquarters, and A, B, and C Companies and was initially stationed at Rio Hato.

Less than a month later on April 15th, elements of the 805th Engineers moved to Chame and constructed their first hasty airstrip in Panama. On September 6th, the Battalion moved to Albrook Field. Fig. 3 shows a cover from HQS Company of the Battalion at APO 825 (Albrook). Before the end of the year, Companies of the 805th would build airstrips at Penonome, Chame, La Joya, and Chorrera. Fig. 4 shows locations of airstrips constructed by 805th Companies in Panama. On January 1, 1942, the unit would join all engineer troops at Ft. Clayton under the command of the 11th Regiment.

On June 12, 1942, the 805th would suffer a serious combat loss. A special airfield task force was being transported on the S.S. *Sixxola* enroute from Cristobal to Guatemala. The ship was a converted United Fruit Company "banana boat." A German U-boat torpedoed the ship 47 miles off Bocas del Toro and 28 members of the ship's crew and all the heavy engineer equipment were lost at sea.

Companies of the Battalion would go on to build airfields in Panama, Guatemala, Peru, Ecuador, and the Galapagos Islands. The Battalion left the Canal Zone on March 30, 1943 and would go on to distinguished service in the Pacific Theater.

Although a cover from the 805th is not rare since the Battalion had 800 members and was on the Zone for two years, it took me 30 years to find one. It is an interesting addition to my collection.



Fig. 4 Airstrips in Panama built by the 805th Engineers (AVN)

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1. *Bulldozers and Bombers: The 805th Engineer Aviation Bn. in World War II*, Thomas J. Marleau et al., 805th Engineer Association, 1981
2. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/805th_Engineer_Aviation_Battalion
3. <http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=1525>